

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 EB-08 TRSE-00 MCE-00

IGA-02 /078 W

-----028005 170742Z /17-L

P R 170551Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 561

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, DJ

SUBJ: DJIBOUTI REQUESTS ARMS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES

REF: DJIBOUTI 726 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH DJIBOUTI ARMY STILL VERY YOUNG AND UNPREPARED FOR MOST OPERATIONAL DUTIES, INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND EXTERNAL THREATS HAVE CAUSED DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH FRENCH HAVE GENERALLY PROVIDED FOR INITIAL NEEDS FOR TRAINING PURPOSES THEY ARE COLLABORATING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

2. CHARGE RECEIVED TWO PERSONAL LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT GOULED, DATED 3 AND 10 JANUARY, ON DAY FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT FOR TRIP TO PERSIAN GULF, 11 JANUARY. EACH OF THESE PERSONAL
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APPEALS CONTAINED AN IDENTICAL LIST OF SMALL ARMS, AMMUNITION, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, MILITARY TENTS, TRACTORS, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT. THE IDENTICAL LIST WAS SUBMITTED TO THE EMBASSIES OF EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN AND OMAN. THE EMBASSY OF EGYPT ALSO RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR AMMUNITION FOR THE VARIOUS SOVIET-MADE ARMS WHICH HAVE BEEN LOCATED IN THE COUNTRY SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

3. A COPY OF THE LIST AND THE LETTERS IS BEING POUCHED TO AF/E.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED ABSOLUTELY NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE DJIBOUTIANS ON THESE QUESTIONS. IN ONE OF THE LETTERS, THE PRESIDENT THROWS BACK ONE OF MY ARGUMENTS, NOTING THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF MATERIALS MAY NOT REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. WHILE THAT IS SOMEWHAT OF A DISTORTION OF MY ARGUMENT -- I HAVE SPENT MOST OF THE TIME DISCUSSING PUBLIC PRESSURES -- IT IS NECESSARY THAT A RESPONSE BE GIVEN THE PRESIDENT.

5. BEFORE FORMULATING A STOCK NEGATIVE ANSWER, WHICH WOULD BE EASIER TO DELIVER ORALLY, CITING CERTAIN NEGATIVE REACTIONS FROM CONGRESS, THE PUBLIC, NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, ETC., I WOULD LIKE THE DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS ONE AREA OF APPROACH, AS FOLLOWS: DJIBOUTI DOES HAVE SEVERE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS, IN ALL SECTORS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN FAIRLY GENEROUS IN SEVERAL AREAS, BUT NOT IN VEHICLES. THE ONSLUGHT OF REFUGEES, THE DISLOCATIONS OF NORMAL TRADING PATTERNS AND THE PRESSURES OF ATTEMPTING TO SECURE NATIONAL UNITY THROUGH POSITIVE ACTIONS HAVE QUICKLY REVEALED THAT AREA OF TRANSPORTATION IS CRITICAL. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO WAY TO RESPOND TO THESE PROBLEMS OTHER THAN UTILIZATION OF THE MILITARY SERVICES IN CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS. IN MANY WAYS, TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO GLUE THIS COUNTRY TOGETHER. IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING PROVISION OF CERTAIN

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MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT IN MECHANICAL AND LOGISTICAL FORMATION, THERE WOULD BE A BETTER CHANCE OF PRESERVING DJIBOUTI AS A RELATIVELY CALM EYE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORMY HORN OF AFRICA.

6. A SEPARATE MESSAGE IS BEING PREPARED ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WILL INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MOEST CIVIC SERVICE-ORIENTED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT.
CLARKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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TAGS: MILI, MASS, DJ
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